



STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Voter Rolls Cleaned; Registration at 7.2 Million

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Jan. 30, 2008 – Illinois has 7,203,827 registered voters, according to a statewide, centralized voter registration database at the State Board of Elections.

The number of registered voters for the Feb. 5 primary is slightly higher than the number registered for the Presidential primary four years ago, but it is lower than the number of registered voters for the 2006 elections.

“Preliminary numbers indicate a surge in registrations as the traditional registration deadline approached and during grace period registration,” said Daniel W. White, executive director of the State Board of Elections. “Furthermore, some election authorities are reporting a record turnout of early voters.”

“Registration rolls have been cleaned,” White explained. “Registrations have been removed as the result of the centralized database that allows jurisdictions to check for duplicate registrations, registration transfers and registrations with incorrect or missing information.”

In addition, White said only active voters are now counted in the registration total in the centralized database. In the past, several of the 110 election authorities across the state counted inactive voters in their registration totals. “The result is a much cleaner and more efficient voter registration database,” he said.

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In 2006, the number of registered voters increased over 100,000 between the primary and general elections, and in 2004, the last Presidential election, the number increased by over 300,000 between the primary and general election.

The statewide voter database is a requirement of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), and the timely transfer of data to and from local jurisdictions to the centralized database is an essential component of HAVA compliance.

Once fully operational, the Illinois Voter Registration System, as it is formally called, will be able to nightly upload voter registration data from the local jurisdictions to the statewide database.

Congress approved HAVA after the disputed 2000 election in Florida, and one of the reforms establishes standards which require states to develop a statewide voter registration system.

Elections are administered locally by 110 election authorities. These are the county clerks in 101 counties, one county election commission and eight municipal election commissions.

In addition, the Secretary of State and state Department of Corrections are directly involved in the database project. The Secretary of State's "motor voter" record-keeping system is being integrated into the centralized system and Corrections' records are being utilized to remove the names of incarcerated felons from the voter registration database. The entire project will be finalized later this year.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state constitutional agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the state.

For more information on the election, contact election authorities in each county or visit the Board's website www.elections.il.gov.

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ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
VOTER REGISTRATION AND PERCENTAGE TURNOUT
ILLINOIS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Turnout</u>	<u>Percentage Total Vote</u>
2004	7,137,954	2,067,824	29%
2000	6,745,655	1,748,191	26%
1996	6,125,044	1,804,626	29%
1992	5,864,882	2,561,882	44%
1988	5,926,690	2,523,665	43%
1984	6,052,488	2,474,610	41%

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